

**PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
of the
Suffolk County Legislature**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **June 3, 2003**.

Members Present:

Legislator Angie Carpenter - Chairperson
Legislator Joseph Caracappa - Vice-Chair
Legislator David Bishop
Legislator William Lindsay
Legislator George Guldi

Members Not Present:

Legislator Andrew Crecca - Excused

Also In Attendance:

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature
Doug Sutherland - Aide to Legislator Carpenter
Rosalind Gazes - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Kevin Duffy - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Terrence Pearsall - Aide to Legislator Crecca
Carl Yellon - Aide to Legislator Crecca
Tom Donovan - Aide to Legislator Guldi
Joe Michaels - Asst. Deputy County Executive for Public Safety
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office/Intergovernmental Relations
Donald Sullivan - Under-Sheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Alan Otto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
John Gallagher - Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department
James Abbott - Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Dept
James Maggio - Asst Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk Police Department
Don Papavero - Lieutenant/Special Patrol Bureau/SCPD
Mike Pirone - Suffolk County Police Department
Fred Daniels - Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Robert Kearon - Bureau Chief/District Attorney's Office
Cindy Scesny - Legislative Liaison/District Attorney's Office
Debbie Eppel - Public Information Office
Vito Dagnello - President/Correction Officer's Association
Todd DeLong - Correction Officer's Association
Bill Ellis - Director of Public Relations/Correction Officer's Assoc.
Tom Muratore - Vice-President/Police Benevolent Association
Mike Sharkey - Deputy Sheriff's Benevolent Association
Ruth Cusack - Suffolk County League of Women Voters
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:
Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

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(*The meeting was called to order at 1:06 P.M.*)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Good afternoon. Welcome to the Public Safety Committee. And I would ask Legislator Lindsay to lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Salutation

LEG. BISHOP:

If you adopt a new cadence, you should warn us.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I'll second that. We have no cards that I see, so we will move right to the agenda, unless any of the representatives of the departments involved wish to come forward with any presentations. I'm not sure if there are many resolutions for FRES, but I see the Police Commissioner is walking in and if you would like to come forward, we're going to start the agenda.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yes.

Tabled Resolutions

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, we'll begin with the tabled resolutions. There are some amending Capital Budget Resolutions, the first, 1379-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the second floor construction, Special Patrol Bureau/Police Department (CP 3139) (County Executive). I know this has been an ongoing project that the department wanted and I'm not quite sure why it was tabled, so perhaps you can speak to it.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Well, as you said -- Madam Chairperson, let me welcome you to your at one time seat as Chair of the Public Safety Committee. And I should ask what's new, but I don't think -- I better not ask that.

The amending resolutions, tabled resolutions amending the budget, I believe is to move up the construction of the second floor in Special Patrol Bureau. Lieutenant Papavero is here from our Special Patrol Bureau -- oh, and Commissioner Maggio, so if there's any questions. I

think this is routine issue.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:
No, it's not.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Yeah, I thought -- it's not routine?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
No, it's not.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Go ahead, Jim.

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ABBOTT:
We thought it was.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:
Originally it was tabled because of the first offset. I believe in front of you you might have a corrected copy that says as of 5/12.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Actually the corrected copy I have is 4/24, so I don't know -- and the offset on it is --

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:
The red light.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
-- red light. So that was changed?

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:
That was changed, there's a corrected copy as of 5/12 but I've just been informed that the offset for the corrected copy of 5/12 has now been changed and there was an amended resolution filed last night with a different offset.

(*Legislator Guldi entered the meeting at 1:10 P.M.*)

LEG. BISHOP:
Motion to table.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Well, I stand corrected then because I didn't know they had filed something as recently as last night.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, let's -- we'll try to get this --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I'm looking at something that says transfer from the General Fund as of 5/30.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:

That's the one.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

That's the one, a corrected copy as of 5/30, Budget Review informs me.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So that it is ready to act on; that offset is a good offset?

MR. DUFFY:

They're using a transfer from the General Fund.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Well, again, since this is something that has been ongoing for quite a while, I would like to --

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LEG. CARACAPPA:

Let me ask a question.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Go ahead, Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Thank you. I'm not sure, seeing that we're changing the method of financing, usually when we go from Operating cost to Capital it needs sup majority vote on the floor of the Legislature. We're going from Capital to Operating money, would that still be the same case with relation to the super majority vote, seeing that we're changing the method of financing?

MR. DUFFY:

I would have to check that in order to be certain.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right. Could you have someone do that and we'll move over this.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

I'll ask Counsel when he comes in.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, let us go then to 1380-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the renovation, construction and additions to the 6th Precinct (CP 3184) (County Executive). Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

I know last month it was tabled by Legislator Lindsay based on the offset. There's a corrected copy. Was there a new offset used, Mr. Maggio; were you aware of that? I'm trying to find it myself. Red light running and camera equipment, I still see that.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:

Right. No, the County Exec's Office is still working on an offset for that.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, then I guess we will --

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Just one other question.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Sure.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

This is just for the mono pole for the communications, it has nothing to do with --

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:

The rest of the building, no; correct.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

-- the actual construction. Okay.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

No, but it's an essential --

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Right, I know it's essential but it's not -- the timing isn't an issue

right now.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

No; at this point, no.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right. Then we'll have a motion to table by Legislator Caracappa and I'll second that. And do we have an answer on -- oh, well, Counsel is here. On 1379 the offset was changed to transferring from the Operating and Legislator Caracappa is inquiring as to whether or not that changes the amount of votes we'll need to approve on 1379.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I think for Counsel --

MR. SABATINO:

1379 -- well, it was tabled for the offset, I don't see the --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Just for Counsel; Paul, I understand that a filing was made on the 30th, just the other day.

MR. SABATINO:

Yeah, that's what we're checking right this minute; it's not on my sheet here but it might be in the book.

LEG. BISHOP:

This meeting is not moving at a rapid pace.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

It will, trust me. Okay, while he's checking on that, we will just go back to 1380. There was a motion and a second; I just want to make sure that it's clear that we call the vote on that. All in favor of the tabling on 1380? Opposed? The resolution is tabled (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Crecca).

Counsel, do you have an answer?

MR. SABATINO:

Well, 1379 had a corrected copy of May 5th.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Doug, would you get that, please? The Chief has a copy of it so we'll get that. All right, let us -- while he's reviewing that and we're getting a copy to Counsel, we'll go to 1426-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with a corrections-system needs assessment study (CP 3008) (County

Executive). Why are we appropriating the funds for this again? I thought this had been done. This is a resolution introduced by County Executive. Does anyone here have -- Chief Otto, do you want to come forward?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Do you want us to remain there, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Sure.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Oh, okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
If you're comfortable doing so.

CHIEF OTTO:
Okay, the original money that was appropriated was \$150,000. Apparently when it out went out to bid for the RFP the lowest bid needed additional money and that's what this appropriation is for.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
So that would be an additional 43,000; is that what I'm seeing on this backup?

CHIEF OTTO:
That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Okay. Are there any other questions on this?

LEG. GULDI:
Motion

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Motion by Legislator Guldi, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Crecca).

Whenever you're ready, Counsel.

MR. SABATINO:
I'm asking for the Clerk's office to verify because we --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Okay.

MR. SABATINO:
I see the copy but there's no record of it in my book --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, we'll wait.

MR. SABATINO:

-- that it was actually filed; it probably was but we don't have a record of it, it wasn't distributed to us.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, no problem. 1431-03 - Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to the County Correctional Facility C-141 Riverhead (CP 3014) (County Executive).

LEG. BISHOP:

Explanation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Counsel, do you want to?

MR. SABATINO:

1431 is \$138,500 in planning money and \$635,000 for the actual improvements to the Correctional Facility would be appropriated --

LEG. LINDSAY:

As part of last year's Capital Budget.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah, in Riverhead.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay, that's fine.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

This is Riverhead.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

This is Riverhead.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay. Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right. So we have a motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Guldi. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is

approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Crecca).

1432-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of a rigid hull police rescue vessel (CP 3151) (County Executive).

MR. SABATINO:

This one just changes the method of financing, so it would be a three-quarters vote on the floor. It goes from pay-as-you-go to bonding because of the change in the law for one year.

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LEG. LINDSAY:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by myself. All those in favor?
Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

On the motion, Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

I'm sorry. This is police vessel, right?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Police vessel, correct.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You're welcome. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved
(Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Crecca).

1433-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the 800 Megahertz Radio System and South Shore Radio Enhancement (CP 3220) (County Executive).

MR. SABATINO:

This also changes the method of financing from pay-as-you-go to serial bonds for the various components; again, it would be a three-quarters vote on the floor of the Legislature.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Just for the record so that if there is any discussion or questions on this at the full meeting on this project, if you would just give us a brief explanation of what we're doing here. Jim, do you want to speak to it?

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:

This is a continuation to the Enhancement Program for the 800 Megahertz System that was started in last year's Capital Budget, it's actually a three year phase-in of the enhancement to the 800 System that goes -- covers most of the radio systems County wide with the Health Department, DPW, the Police, Sheriff. So all these improvements are a three year period, this is the second period of the three years.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:

So this just continues the funding to get that project done

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Very good. Any other questions? Then I will make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Crecca).

1434-03 - Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to the Police 800 Megahertz Radio Communication System (CP 3221) (County Executive). How is this different?

MR. SABATINO:

Well, the first -- the one before was changing the method of financing, this one is not changing the method of financing and this is going into what they call Phase II. This would be \$440,000 with the break-out being 5,000 for planning, 35 -- I'm sorry, \$435,000 for -- \$400,000 for the hardware and \$35,000 for associated improvements. I don't know what Phase II is in comparison to the previous, but it's not a change in the method of financing, it's --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Removing the money for the project.

MR. SABATINO:

It's real money.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Do you have -- other than what you said, this is a phased-in project and this is Phase II of it and certainly is something that we

need for -- to enhance our communications --

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:
Right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Is there anything else you need to add?

ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAGGIO:
This project is specifically for only Police improvements.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Police, okay. Any questions? Then I will make a motion to approve,
second by Legislator Caracappa. All those in favor? Opposed?
The resolution is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator
Crecca).

1439-03 - Accepting and appropriating additional grant funds in the
amount of \$20,000 from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice
Services for the Suffolk County Police Department to continue the
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program with 75% Program
(County Executive).

LEG. BISHOP:
Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Motion by Legislator Bishop, second by myself. All those in favor?

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Opposed? Abstained? Approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present:
Legislator Crecca).

1460-03 - Modifying Universal Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Policy for
State mandated reporters at Suffolk County Contract Agencies (Cooper).
Counsel, if you would please explain how this is different from the
other resolutions we adopted on this?

MR. SABATINO:
This is a suggestion that came from the contract agency that's
currently implementing the Statute. In going through their
preparation of rules and regulations, they ran into a situation where
you have State mandated reporters which are people that had to do the
reporting prior to and separate and apart from the legislation that we
enacted, they had requested that in order to avoid double reporting
that they basically not be obligated to make the same response to 911
if they can do it threw the state registry. If they can't get their
reporting through the State registry then they would go the 911 route.

So basically it's limited to the State mandated reporters and it allows them to use the Central Registry as the alternative to our law enforcement or 911.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Are we prime on this or is --

LEG. GULDI:

We are prime.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We are prime. I'm going to -- there are quite a list of items covered in these RESOLVED clauses. I'm going to make a motion to table just one cycle --

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

-- since we're meeting in two weeks to make sure that everyone that is working on this. You said they; who is the agency that requested it, Counsel?

MR. SABATINO:

This is the -- Laura Ahearn's group.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Megan's Law.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Parents for Megan's Law.

MR. SABATINO:

Parents for Megan's Law, right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. All right, we'll just table it one cycle, we're meeting in another two weeks. Motion by myself, second by Legislator Caracappa.

All those in favor? Opposed? It is tabled (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Crecca).

We have Sense 40-2003 - Requesting the State of New York to authorize increase in local 911 wireless surcharge for E-911 County costs (Presiding Officer Postal). So this is actually asking permission to give us the option to add an additional local 30 cent per wireless line per month to the 911 and Enhanced 911. And these funds would

then be dedicated to enhancing the system?

MR. SABATINO:

Yes. There are two quick points; one is other municipalities did receive that authorization last year, Suffolk County was not one of them; and then the money would, as you just stated, be dedicated to the technology costs that are associated with 911.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I would assume that the department is supportive of this and have met up against the need for increased funding for this kind of technology.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yes. There's two phases to the wireless 911 enhancements and it involves -- some of which, the second phase involves a considerable commitment on the part of the manufacturers of the wireless systems, Sprint, etcetera. But in doing Phase I which we have been working on, I believe we're close to finishing on Phase I which narrows down the field of identity to a much narrower field than it was before. But it is an expensive -- there's a lot of expense involved in retooling our own equipment to be able to do that. Phase II, it's really -- we are very supportive of it and it's going to take, you know, jurisdictions beyond our level such as FCC, etcetera, to keep pushing that these companies, these wireless companies come up with the chips in the wireless units to be able to identify it right down to within feet of where the call is coming from.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you very much. All right we have a motion by myself, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Crecca).

And that brings us back to 1379; do we have that information from the Clerk?

MR. SABATINO:

Yes, Madam Chair. The corrected copy was filed yesterday afternoon and it converted the offset -- it converted the funding, I should say, to pay-as-you-go \$200,000.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So then to answer Legislator Caracappa's question, does that change the requirement in the number of votes needed to approve this?

MR. SABATINO:

Yes, there's no longer the -- it will now be 14 votes instead of the two-thirds because instead of going the offset route they're going

through a different -- well, no, 1379 -- hold on. No, it wouldn't change the number of votes because it's not -- it's changing the method of financing with regard to the offset but it's not changing the method of financing with regard to what's in the existing budget. So it would still be -- actually it would be 10 votes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Great.

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Very good.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you.

MR. SABATINO:
Well, except you would -- yeah, it would be 10 votes instead of 12.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Okay, thank you very much. I'll make that motion, second by Legislator Caracappa. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Crecca).

Is there anyone else who would like to address the committee, or gentlemen, if you have anything else? Then we stand adjourned. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 P.M.*)

Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson
Public Safety & Public Information Committee

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